THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) to (d) Nuclear power is technologically proven, economically viable and environmentally clean source of energy. The Nuclear Power development programme of the country is being accelerated. India has limited uranium but large thorium resources. These two resources in combination provide significant potential for electricity generation in the long run.

The construction of a 500 M WE prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is to commence in the 10th Five Year Plan. This will be the fore runner of a series of 500 MWE Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR) to be built in the country. In addition, design work is also'going on for a 300 MWE Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre as a technology demonstration project for the utilization of thorium for electricity generation.

The Nuclear programme as it develops would be dovetailed with plans for generation of electricity from hydro, thermal and other renewable sources of energy to meet the anticipated needs of electricity in the country.

Setting up a Technology Mission for Rural Electrification

847. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

SHRI DIN A NATH MISHRA:

SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the

Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Technology Mission for rural electrification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the main purposes of setting up of this mission;

(d) whether the Mission would aim at development of appropriate technologies that suit rural conditions; and

(e) to what extent the setting up of a Mission would prove useful ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Distributed Generation has been identified as one of the mechanisms for ensuring supply of power in rural areas by way of setting up of small generating units based on a variety of local

fuels along with localized distribution. For successful implementation of distributed generation and for involvement of local entrepreneurs and agencies, the Rural Electric Supply Technology Mission (REST), under the auspices of the Ministry of Power, was constituted on September 11, 2002. The terms of reference of the Mission are to :—

(i) Evolve a strategy based on technology which could provide for low cost power generation and low cost of delivery in the rural areas which can be managed by local, institutions like Village Panchayats. andNGOs.

(ii) Identify feasible size of generating units for different fuels, which are,locally available, and for mini and micro hydel projects.

(si) Suggest type of technologies to be adopted for setting up local distribution networks with or without connectivity to the Grid and to cover at least 25% of the villages in the country under the Mission.

(iv) To assess funds requirement for the next two Plans.

Impact of Gas Discovery of Reliance/NIKO consortium

848. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gas discovery by the Reliance/NIKO consortium would positively impact the incremental addition to the power generating capacity in the country and whether NTPC and other organizations would be encouraged to. opt for gas based power generation; and

(b) if so, how the discovery of gas reserves will impact on the price of power generated ? *

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) and (b) As far as National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is concerned, they have resorted to International Competitive Bidding for sourcing of gas for gas based power projects.

Analysing the functioning of SEBs

849. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :